



Questions to Ask Child Care Programs

When selecting a child care program for your child, it's essential to gather comprehensive information to ensure the well-being, safety, and development of your little one. To assist you in making an informed decision, here are some important questions to ask child care programs during your evaluation process.

General Questions

- Are there child care openings at the time when I will need it? Is there a waitlist for care in the future?
- Does the program have written policies for discipline, payment, and attendance?
- If split into classrooms, which class would my child be in?
- Can I visit my child at any time?
- Does the program provide daily reports?
- Does the program have live video feeds, security systems, or cameras?

Health and Safety

- What emergency plans are in place? How would I be reunified with my child?
- In case of an emergency, what plans are in place? How would I be reunified with my child?
- Is the adult-to-child ratio appropriate for the amount of children and ages of said children in your care?
- Are the children's hands washed before and after meal time, using the restroom, playing outside, messy play, etc.?
- What is the program's sick child policy?
- Are children taken off-site? How and when would I be notified? How are the children transported?
- What are the meals and snacks provided to children? Are they included in the fees?
- Are there meals available for children with dietary restrictions or allergies?
- Is there a special space to breastfeed?
- Are infants always laid on their backs to sleep? What additional safe sleep procedures are in place?
- Has the child care educator passed the mandated child abuse and neglect screenings?

Activities and Experiences

- What is a typical day like?
- How much time do children get to play outside?
- How long are children allowed to have screen time each day?
- How do you choose children's toys and materials? How do you plan their activities?

Education and Training

- Does the child care educator have special training or credentials?
- Does the child care educator have CPR/First Aid certifications?
- What education and experience does the child care educator have?

Relationships and Interactions

- How do caregivers handle discipline or behavioral problems? For instance, how do they handle biting, hitting, or bullying?
- How do child care educators handle communication with families?
- How does the program acknowledge and respect an individual family's values and culture?
- How are children comforted when upset?

Notes
